State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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NEWS RELEASE

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IDAHO SHIBA PROGRAM AWARDED GRANT MONEY

\$379,295 to help beneficiaries learn about Medicare

BOISE ID (April 3, 2012) – The Idaho Department of Insurance office of Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) has been awarded \$379,295.00 in grant money from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

"SHIBA provides quality, free and unbiased Medicare counseling at the local level to those needing access to health insurance and prescription drug coverage," said SHIBA Program Supervisor Phyllis Barker. "We partner with CMS to make healthcare accessible to those who are often less likely to receive preventive care."

Through outreach and education, SHIBA volunteers and staff provide beneficiaries and their caretakers with important information, including Medicare's preventive services benefits.

Idaho's grant was part of nearly \$46.5 million distributed to similar state assistance programs nationwide and is available for the grant year April 1, 2012, through March 31, 2013.

SHIBA provides free and unbiased information, counseling and assistance regarding Medicare with the objective of assisting Medicare beneficiaries in making informed buying decisions. To contact a SHIBA representative, Idahoans are encouraged to call 800-247-4422.

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About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.